

Fresno, CA - Today, Congressman Jim Costa (CA-20) announced grant funding totaling near \$135 million that is available from the United States Department of Justice's Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS). Three grants are currently available to select law enforcement agencies: Interoperable Communications Technology program, Secure our Schools program and Tribal Resources Grant program.

"These grant programs are assets to the community and all who are eligible should apply," Congressman Costa said

Roughly \$100 million is available from the Interoperable Communications Technology programs, which can be used to enhance the effectiveness of public safety communications systems. Specifically, interoperable communications refers to the ability of public safety agencies to talk across various agencies and localities to exchange needed information in a timely manner.

The Secure our Schools program offers approximately \$15 million to improve schools safety equipment and programs. Schools can use awarded grants to install metal detectors, provide security assessments and training options and coordinate with local law enforcement on implementation of school safety measures.

Tribal Resources Grants program allocates up to \$20 million in funding for various tribal law enforcement agencies. These funds can be used to execute law enforcement training, provide uniforms, issue basic equipment and maintain vehicles for new and existing officers.

"These funds will supply our law enforcement officials with the necessary tools to implement procedures that will allow them to maintain public safety," Costa concluded.

Please visit <http://www.cops.usdoj.gov/default.asp?Item=1474> for more information about these grants and the invited agencies.

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